Abbingdon Music Research

AM-777

Pre-Main Amplifier

Owner's Manual

FCC Declaration of Conformity - United States only

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

FCC WARNING:

Changes or modifications to this unit not expressly approved by the party responsible for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

NOTE:

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.

- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.

- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Canadian Notice (Avis Canadien)

Class B Equipment

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

CE

This products complies with the EMC Directive (89/336/EEC) and the Low Voltage Directive (73/23/EEC) issued by the Commission of the European Community.

Compliance with these directives implies conformity to the following European Norms (in parentheses are the equivalent international standards and regulations):

o EN55022 (CISPR 22) - Electromagnetic Interference

o EN55024 (IEC61000-4-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11) - Electromagnetic Immunity

o EN61000-3-2 (IEC61000-3-2) - Power Line Harmonics

o EN61000-3-3 (IEC61000-3-3) - Power Line Flicker

o EN60950 (IEC60950) - Product Safety

WARNINGS

The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying this component.

This component weighs over 15 kilograms. Do not place this component on an unstable cart, stand, tripod, bracket or table as the component may fall causing serious injury to a child or adult and serious damage to the unit. An appliance and cart combination should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force and uneven surfaces may cause the

component and cart combination to overturn.

Any mounting of the device on a wall or ceiling should follow the Manufacturer's instructions and should use a mounting accessory recommended by the manufacturer.

Read and follow all the safety and operating instructions before connecting or using this component.

All warnings on the component and in its operating instructions should be adhered to.

Retain this Owner's Manual for future reference.

Do not use this unit near water; for example, near a bath tub, washbowl, kitchen sink, laundry tub, in a wet basement or near a swimming pool.

Unplug the component from the wall outlet before cleaning. Never use benzine, thinner or other solvents for cleaning; use only a soft damp cloth.

Care should be taken so that objects do not fall, and liquids are not spilled into the enclosure through any openings.

This component should be serviced only by qualified AMR service personnel when:

A. The power cable or the power input socket has been damaged;

B. Objects have fallen, or liquid has been spilled into the component;

C. The component has been exposed to rain or liquids of any kind;

D. The component does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance;

E. The component has been dropped or the enclosure has been damaged.

DO NOT ATTEMPT SERVICING OF THIS UNIT YOURSELF. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED AMR SERVICE PERSONNEL

Upon completion of any servicing or repairs, request the service point's assurance that only AMR Authorised Replacement Parts with the same characteristics as the original parts have been used, and that the routine safety checks have been performed to guarantee that the component is in a safe operating condition.

REPLACEMENT WITH UNAUTHORIZED PARTS MAY RESULT IN FIRE, ELECTRIC SHOCK OR OTHER HAZARDS

Precautions

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits set out in the EMC Directive using a connection cable shorter than 3 metres.

On power sources

The mains power cable should be routed so that it is not likely to be walked on or pinched, especially near the plug or back panel receptacle. The component should not be disconnected from the AC power source as long as it is connected to the wall outlet, even if the component itself has been turned off.

If this component is not going to be used for a long time, be sure to disconnect the component from the wall outlet. To disconnect the AC

power cable, grasp the plug itself; never pull the cable.

On placement

The AM-777 may become warm during normal operation. Given this, it is imperative that the AM-777 when installed, its location or position DOES NOT interfere with its proper ventilation.

For example, it should not be situated on a bed, sofa, rug or similar surface that may block the top or bottom ventilation openings; or placed in a built-in installation, such as a bookcase or cabinet, that may impede the flow of air through its top and bottom ventilation openings.

Do not place the component in a location near heat sources, or in a place subject to direct sunlight, excessive dust, or mechanical shock. Do not place the component in an inclined position.

It is designed to be operated in a horizontal position only. Do not place heavy objects on the component.

Keep the component away from equipment with strong magnets, such as microwave ovens or large loudspeakers.

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not place vessels filled with liquids, such as vases, on the component.

Running-In

AMR estimates that the AM-777 may take between 300-500 operating hours for all of the internal components to be fully-broken in. Please anticipate the sonic performance of the AM-777 to settle only after it has been used for this approximate length of time.

Thank you for purchasing this AMR reference class component.

We hope you derive as much pleasure from using this component as we have enjoyed making it for you.

1.1 Unpacking

This section refers to the unpacking of the AM-777 and its subsequent setup.

Upon unpacking, please find:

Please check that all contents are present

i. AM-777 Reference Class Dual-Mono Pre-Main Amplifier.
ii. RC-777 Remote Commander.
iii. AMR mains power cable.
iv. AM-777 Owner's Manual.
v. AMR Test Disk.

Please ensure that all items are present. Should an item be missing, please contact your AMR distributor/dealer.

1.2 Setup

Pre-Main Stereo Amplifier Connection (8 Ohm Speakers)

Default pre-main mode: the AM-777 as an integrated amplifier

The following diagram illustrate the standard connection of the AM-777 in pre-main stereo amplifier mode. This is the default factory setting and is suitable for the majority of audio systems.

Warning: ensure no speaker connector is in contact with the chassis to cause a short-circuit!

2.1 AM-777 Front Fascia

The plastic protective film covering the display may be removed

F1. STANDBY: to place the AM-777 in active or standby mode.
F2. SOURCE : to select between the different inputs.
F3. VOLUME : to adjust the volume level.

2.2 AM-777 Rear Panel

Warning: ensure that the correct mains voltage and speaker impedance are selected!

R1. SPADE/BANANA outputs: for connection of standard termination speaker cables.

R2. USB input: to allow direct connection to a computer.

R3. HIFI/PRO: to allow for a source with transformer balanced output.

R4. POWER: to switch on mains electricity to the AM-777.

R5. 115V/230V: to switch to the correct local mains voltage.

R6. INPUT 1: shared XLR and RCA input

R7. INPUTS 2-4: RCA inputs

R8. IEC power connector: for the connection of a mains power cable to the AM-777.

R9. Preamplifier output: to drive other amplifiers.

R10. MODE: to alternate between Stereo/Monoblock/Bi-Amplification settings.

R11. INT/POWER Amp: to alternate between Pre-Main and Power Amplification setings.

R12. 4R/8R speaker: to select the correct speaker impedance.

R13. Infra-Red Link: for connection of a wireline remote control.

In the majority of audio systems, the AM-777 is most likely to be operated as a Pre-Main Amplifier. Please inspect the rear panel of the AM-777 to verify that the default settings (in bold) are as follows:

1. **HIFI/PRO switches** are set to **HiFi** (left position)
2. **MODE switch** is set to **LR** (middle position)
3. **INT/POWER switch** is set to **Int** (right position)
4. **4R/8R switch** is set to **8R** (unless speakers with 4R or lower impedance are used)

2.3 RC-777 Remote Control

RC1. MENU: to enter Advanced Features mode*.
RC2. STANDBY: to place the AM-777 in active or standby mode.
RC3. SOURCE: to select between the 5 different inputs.
RC4. VOLUME: to adjust the volume level.
RC5. **MUTE**: to mute (temporarily turn off sound) the AM-777.
RC6. BRIGHTNESS: to adjust brightness levels*.
RC7. OK : to be used in Advanced Features mode*.

* Please refer to Section 4 - Menu Setting section for more details

3.1 Notes on operation

3.1.1 Power On/Off

Once powered OFF: always wait 30 seconds before switching on again

Press the 'POWER' rocker switch (R4) at the rear of the AMP to switch on mains power to the AM-777. To switch the mains power OFF, press again and release. **Always wait at least 30 seconds** before switching ON again. This is to enable the AM-777 circuits to shutdown properly.

The display will light up to indicate the unit is switched on and ready for use. This should take just under 1 minute as the AM-777 is warming up.

3.1.2 Volume Adjustment

Beware: prolonged listening at high volume levels is likely to damage your hearing

Adjust the volume up or down to attain a comfortable level for listening.

3.1.3 Rear Inputs

At the rear of the AM-777, there are 4 sets of RCA inputs for the connection of source components such as the CD-777 compact disk processor or a vinyl source. One XLR Input is shared with the RCA Input 1. The fifth input is USB only and can only be selected if connected to a computer.

If the AM-777 is used in single-channel mode, all other inputs are defeated. Signal input is allowed only through the LEFT channel (white) of Input 1: via XLR or RCA.

3.1.4 USB Input

The AM-777 can be connected via a USB connection (R2) directly to a computer for sound replay. No Drivers are required under Windows XP SP2 or later and Mac OSX. Make sure the playback application is set correctly to output sound to the USB Audio Device.

3.1.5 Mode switch

At the rear of the AM-777 the “Mode” switch (R10) allows for the AM-777 to alternate between Stereo/ Monoblock/Bi-Amplifier modes.

3.1.6 Int/Power switch

At the rear of the AM-777, the “Int/Power” switch (R11) enables the AM-777 to alternate between pre-main or power amplification modes.

3.1.7 HiFi/Pro switch

At the rear of the AM-777, the “HiFi/Pro” switch (R3) allows for a source with a transformer balanced output to be connected to the AM-777.

3.1.8 Preamplifier Output connector

At the rear of the AM-777, the preamplifier output (R9) allows the AM-777 to drive other amplifiers (including AM-777 switched to power amplifier mode) or subwoofers. The output level of the preamplifier output varies with volume changes on the AM-777.

3.1.9 Speaker Impedance Switch

At the rear of the AM-777, the 4R/8R speaker impedance switch (R12) allows the AM-777 to be configured to correctly match the impedance of the speakers used.

3.1.10 Mains Voltage Switch

At the rear of the AM-777, the 115V/230V switch (R5) allows the AM-777 to be configured to correctly match the local mains voltage.

Warning: setting this switch incorrectly may damage your AM-777!

4.1 Labeling of Inputs and Setting Level Offset

With the AM-777, in one process, it is possible to label each of the inputs with a corresponding source and to set the respective level offset. This function is recommended only after ALL desired sources have been connected to the AM-777.

4.1.1 Labeling Input X

- Press the **Setup** key on the remote
- Uses the **Volume+/Volume-** to scroll through the names
- Press the **OK** key on the remote to store the new name

4.1.2 Setting Level Offset

- **Level Offset** is flashing on the 1st line of the display
- Use the **Volume+/Volume-** to increase/decrease the offset, the volume will also change in realtime
- The range of offset available is from **-18dB** to **+12dB**
- Press the **OK** key on the remote to store the new offset

4.1.3 Setting Fixed Input Level for Bypass Mode

- Press the **Volume+** button untill the display reads +12dB, press **Volume+** again.
- Press the **OK** button to enter the (Volume Control) **Bypass** mode.

- Confirm the warning message by pressing **Volume+** or press **OK** to exit without enabling **Bypass** mode
- Then select one of the following settings using **Volume+/Volume -** : **Fixed Input 4V, Fixed Input 2V** or **Fixed Input 1V**
- Press **OK** key on the remote to store the new fixed input Level

Warning: When setting a fixed input level the volume control of the AM-777 is bypassed! The volume control must be handled by the source connected.

4.2 *OptiProtect*® Speaker Overload Protection

If there are any questions, please contact your nearest AMR distributor/ dealer

Within *OptiProtect*® the AM-777 has an in-built speaker protection circuit.

This is mainly a final safeguard against equipment failure and/or extreme levels of over-driving the amplifier and speakers. When the display shows:

```
S p e a k e r   P r o t e c t i o n
        E n g a g e d !
```

This indicates that the AM-777 has detected an output condition that could potentially damage the speakers connected to it.

Normally switching the AM-777 off, waiting 20 seconds and switching it back on will reset the protection circuit if the cause was for example, excessive signal levels. In the extremely rare event that an internal malfunction of the AM-777 is the cause for the protection circuit to engage, the protection will re-engage on switch-on, indicating the need for the AM-777 to be serviced.

Appendix A - Troubleshooting

Symptom	Possible Cause	Solution
With power ON no power is registered	• poor/no power plug connection at mains power point	• insert the power plug firmly into the AC
	• blown fuse at mains plug	• check and change mains plug fuse
No sound	• incorrect audio cable connections	• connect the sources to the AM-777 correctly
	• incorrect amplifier operation	• make sure that the input selector on the AM-777 is set to the desired source
Strange “blast” sound connectors	• check speaker connectors are not in contact with the chassis	• adjust fitting between speaker and chassis and terminal. Ensure no contact between chassis and spade terminals (no “short circuiting”)
Remote control does not work	• remote control batteries have expired	• replace 2 x AAA batteries
	• object obscuring remote sensor on the AM-777, no “line of sight”	• remove any objects directly in front of the AM-777
	• Interference from fluorescent lights	• turn off fluorescent lights or redirect the light away from the AM-777
A “humming” sound can be heard	• loose cable connections	• re-attach the loose cables correctly
Other problems		• go to the Contents section and re-trace the procedure or contact your nearest AMR distributor/dealer

Appendix B - Specifications

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Inputs:	4 x RCA 1 x XLR Bal. shared with 1 RCA 1 x USB
Volume Control:	-71dB – 0dB in 1dB steps + Mute
Input Sensitivity (IHF 2.83V Out)/Impedance:	≤ 0.05V / ≥ 20KOhm
Power Output IHF Dynamic Power:	60 watts per channel at 4 or 8 ohm (stereo mode) 70 watts per channel at 8 ohm (monoblock mode) 120 watts per channel at 2 or 4 ohm (monoblock mode)
FTC:	60 watts per channel at 4 or 8 ohm (stereo mode) 70 watts at 8 ohm (monoblock mode) 120 watts per channel at 2 or 4 ohm (monoblock mode)
Output impedance:	0.33 ohm, 20 - 20,000 Hz
Frequency Response (-1dB):	10Hz - 30kHz
Signal-to-noise ratio "A" weighted:	≥100 dB
Operational Modes:	Pre-Main amplifier mode; Power amplifier mode Monoblock option;
Thermionic Electron Valves	amplification stage: 6N1P-EV fitted ECC88, E88CC, 7308, Cca, 6DJ8, 6922, 6N23P-EV optional

Power Transformer:	380 VA Custom Torroid (Output Stage) 32 VA Custom EI Transformer (Valve Stage)
Power consumption:	Standby: <1 W Power on: 25 W at rated output (4R): 250 W
Power Supply Capacitance:	44,000uF in total
Rated voltage:	100V/120V/230V~ AC 50Hz - 60Hz
Mains Fuse:	100V/120V: 4A slow blow; 230V: 2A slow blow
Colour:	Silver or Black
Dimensions:	17.7 in W by 4.7 in H by 14.6 in D 45 cm W by 12 cm H by 37 cm D 57 cm W by 49 cm H by 25 cm D (shipped)
Weight:	AM-777: 31 lbs / 14 kg Shipped: 40 lbs / 18 kg

Information and specifications are subject to change without notice.

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